

Protective composite headgear bearing distinctive embedded marking, such as alphanumeric data, color patterns, or stylized designs. A patterned sheet is formed into headgear shape, and the patterned side is covered with solidifiable plastic composition. The outer layer of the resulting composite headgear is translucent, and the inner layer preferably opaque, so that the pattern between layers is protected from abrasion damage while readily visible to an onlooker. Distortion of the pattern by the shaping of the original flat sheet is counteracted by pre-distorting the sheet oppositely to offset it.